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that people could obtain only timber of bad quality and that at enhanced prices. It was regrettable that the sons of the soil should depend on the good will and pleasure of foreigners for timber to erect their habitations. The Member stated also that, as a further inducement to the contractors to refuse the sale of good teak timber within the State, they were allowed to export their timber free of duty to other countries where they fetched higher prices. He pointed out that the contract would expire by next December, and he urged that such measures should be adopted in giving a new contract, as were conducive to the well being and convenience of the people. He suggested that provision should be made that the teak timber required for the *bonafide* private use of the people might be purchased from the Sircar depots, at Sircar rates, without allowing the contractors the first chance of selection.

Dewan's reply.—The contract expires by November 1912, and it is not intended to renew the contract or to give a contract like that again.

15. The need for demarcating the boundaries of the proposed Forest Reserves, such as Kumaramperur North and South, Rajampara etc., so as to exclude therefrom registered holdings and inhabited localities. The policy of creating Reserves near registered holdings and adding to the existing Reserves, in spite of the G. O. dated 23rd February 1908, declaring that the Government would not go in for further reservation, is also complained about.

Mr. Parameswaran Narayanan (Member, Chenganoor taluk) said that the inhabitants of localities near Forest Reserves were put to unnecessary hardships on account of increasing the Reserves occasionally and the want of clear demarcation of their boundaries. About three-fourths of the Chenganoor taluk consisted of Reserves settled or proposed. Now, additional Reserves have been proposed in the two *pakuthies* of Ranni and Kumbazha, and in them there were many inhabited localities, besides areas under occupation by the people. Most of these lands were included in the boundaries of former *puduvals*, but were divided from them in the last Settlement, and as such, under the present circumstances, even some doorways and court-yards of habitations had come within the Sircar forests. Further, he said that people who lived in those parts could not but travel through forbidden lands and that plants and trees in them might be injured accidentally, giving occasion for the operation of the Forest Regulation. Of late, many prosecutions have resulted from this cause. Thus, the people were not only deprived of their holdings in those parts, but they were forced to answer criminal charges against them for no fault of their own. He pointed out also that many Jenmies' *cherikals*, rubber estates, and registered holdings were included in the proposed Reserves, and he cited instances in Chethikal, Karinkulam, Rajampara, Kumaramperur North and South and Anakulam Reserves. The Member further stated that, in spite of the G. O. of 23rd February 1908, declaring that the Government would *not* go in for further reservation, a new Reserve, under the name of Kumaramperur North Extension Reserve, has been

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proposed on the pretence of protecting the Kumaramperur North Reserve. This new proposal covered localities inhabited for a long time and cultivated along with the registered holdings. The estates of Chattar and Kurungali were on both sides of it and a public road from Mylaprayil to Chattar traversed it. The Member expressed his regret at the policy of reserving forests containing cultivated and inhabited localities and passing through registered holdings and prayed that a clear demarcation of the boundaries should be made of the Reserves that now extended from Enathimangalam to Changanacherry border, excluding Jenmies' *cherikals*, registered holdings and estates.

Dewan's reply.—I shall enquire into this matter.

16. The difficulties experienced by the people generally on account of the Southern Division Forest Officer's administration of the Forest Rules in the following respects.

(1) The refusal of the department to issue free passss for the removal of fuel from private lands. (2) The calculation as one ton of a cart load of fuel from the Sirkar lands, instead of as half a ton as fixed by the Government. (3) The Forest officers insist on the production of a free pass for the removal of manure leaves from private lands and refuse to grant the same if asked for. (4) The department refuse to allow ryots to cut and remove bamboos from the Sirkar lands on payment of seigniorage. (5) It is a hardship that, when timber is auctioned at the depots, it is given only to merchants and not to the ryots directly.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) said that the procedure of the Government in levying a fee for a permit to collect fuel from the forest areas and in issuing a free pass for fuel taken from private lands was a good one. Now difficulties are experienced in getting a free pass, which was not the case when Mr. A. P. Smith was the Divisional Officer. The first difficulty was that no reply would be sent to an applicant who applied for a free pass. After repeated applications, the matter would be referred to the Forest Ranger, who would take his own time to inspect the place whence the fuel had to be removed. After satisfying himself, he would direct the applicant to collect the firewood and then apply to him. Accordingly, he would have to be again approached, but it took him two or three months to issue a pass. By this time the firewood would be stolen. The granting of free passes seemed to be repugnant to the present Divisional Forest Officer. It was a hardship to any one to have to purchase firewood when it was available in ones' own compound. It seemed that the Divisional Officer was labouring under a mistaken notion that, if a free pass was granted, people would steal firewood from the neighbouring forests. The people must be enabled to get firewood without hardship. It was intolerable that the produce of their own compounds could not be enjoyed by them.

(2) Another hardship, the Member said, was the calculation of one cartload of firewood as one ton by the Forest people, while the Government fixed one ton as two cartloads.

(3) Another hardship was in the matter of obtaining manure leaves. Passes had to be obtained even as regards leaves taken from registered lands. When applications were made for passes, they were delayed greatly. In his own case, the Member said, he got a reply only after 62 days. The need for the manure would be over by the time the reply was received.

(4) Another difficulty was in the matter of getting bamboos. Bamboos are not allowed to be removed from the

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